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July 5, 1901

CANADA.

Report from Quebec—Immigrant inspection service.

QUEBEC, CANADA, June 22, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report that for the week ended June 22 there were inspected 609 immigrants; passed, 603; cause of detention, deaf mute, 1; gonorrhea, 1; partial opacity of both cornea, 1; pregnancy, 1; trachoma, 1; weak mind, 1.

Respectfully,

VICTOR G. HEISER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Report from Amoy—Plague again becomes epidemic—The disinfection plant at Amoy.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24, 1901.

SIR: Referring to the Department's letter of the 1st ultimo, in which was inclosed, for the information of the Surgeon-General of the Marine-Hospital Service, copy of a telegram dated April 30 last, from the consul at Amoy, China, reporting an outbreak of plague in that city, I have now the honor to inclose herewith copy of dispatch No. 101, dated May 14 last, from Mr. Johnson, confirming his telegram and reporting further in the matter.

Respectfully,

DAVID J. HILL,
Acting Secretary.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

AMOY, CHINA, May 14, 1901.

SIR: On April 30, I cabled you as follows: "Hay, Washington: Plague—JOHNSON," which I have the honor to confirm. The appearance of bubonic plague in epidemic form at this port is two weeks earlier than last year. This was probably due to the early warm rains following upon a long dry winter.

As soon as it appeared in epidemic form I refused to permit Chinese steerage passengers to depart for Manila, and reported the existence of plague to the Marine-Hospital Service at Manila, in order that due precautions might be taken to prevent its introduction through the first-cabin Chinese passengers, who either go direct from here or via Hongkong.

Owing to the supposed existence of plague and smallpox in all these Chinese cities and villages, I notified the ships' agents last fall that they would have to take steps to disinfect all effects of steerage passengers and that the passengers themselves should be required to take a bath under the direction of the consular surgeon.

The disinfecting plant was installed in March and hereafter the requirements of the law in that respect will be enforced. I herewith inclose a copy of the report of the consular surgeon as to the establishment of this plant and its operation.

The spread of plague during the past ten days has been rapid and the fatalities most appalling. It is impossible to give approximately accurate data, as no statistics are kept by the officials and no amount of inquiry can result in accurate figures. It is my opinion, based upon the most reliable data from native sources, that during the week just closed there were as many as 100 deaths per day in Amoy and its suburbs. The same condition of affairs exists in surrounding cities within 30 miles of Amoy.

As soon as the rainy season closes and hot dry weather sets in the epidemic rapidly dies out. Yet it is true that some cases occur throughout the entire year. No European at Amoy ever contracted the disease.

Respectfully,

A. BURLINGAME JOHNSON,
United States Consul.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.